



- 20% of Nebraska's population depends on private wells for drinking water
- 15% of private water supplies are contaminated with coliform bacteria, have elevated nitrate levels, or both.

Nitrates

Water with nitrate levels higher than 10 parts per million is a concern for:

- Infants under 6 months of age
- Pregnant mothers
- Elderly

Boiling water will not reduce nitrate levels

Coliform Bacteria

- Coliform bacteria are microscopic and generally harmless organisms that live in the intestinal tract of many warm-blooded animals.
- These organisms are excreted through feces and can make their way to the ground water.
- Coliform bacteria are not direct disease causing but can be associated with other more dangerous strains of bacteria such as shigella, salmonella and E.coli.
- Treatment of coliform bacteria is relatively simple and inexpensive. Shock chlorination can be used to clean up a well.

CDHD recommends that anyone using a private well, test their water every year for coliform bacteria.

**To request a water sample kit please call the laboratory office at 308-385-5175 or email watrlab@cdhd.ne.gov

Test costs

Coliform = \$15.50
Nitrate = \$13.00
Hardness = \$13.00
Fluoride = \$13.00
pH = \$13.00

[Swimming Beach Test Results 2013](#)

[Swimming Beach Test Results 2012](#)

[Swimming Beach Test Results 2011](#)

[Swimming Beach Test Results 2010](#)

[Swimming Beach Test Results 2009](#)